

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 21, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 35, 40-45, and 47-54 have been amended to improve clarity of the features recited therein and claim 39 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested. As will be discussed below, it is also requested that all of claims 1-37 and 39-70 be found allowable as reciting patentable subject matter.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 28-34, 47, and 49-54. Claims 39-46 and 48 were objected to.

Claims 28-38 and 40-54 stand rejected and pending and under consideration.


In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 35-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U. S. Publication No. 2002/0085719 to Crosbie. Claims 39-46 and 48 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Because claim 35 has been amended to include the recitations of objected claim 39, now cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 35, along with dependent claims 36-46 and 48, are in condition for allowance. Thus, the rejection of claims 35-38 under §102 over Crosbie is considered moot.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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